(1) Number of pages

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	Press / Mis.
Dated	18 .

12/13

28-30

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
30th May 1871.

Read the following papers:—

No. 28. From the Assay Master, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Fort St. George, 12th April 1871, No. 4.

I have the honour, according to request, to enclose the accompanying Notification for approval, relative to the receipt and purchase of bullion at Madras.

2. The several paragraphs appear to me to be sufficiently clear and to require no explanation. I think I have comprehended all the exigencies that need be provided for in a case where there is neither Mint nor regularly-constituted Assay Department on the spot.

3. In forwarding this Notification, which, I presume, must receive the sanction of the Government of India before promulgation, I trust it may not be considered out of place, on my part, to make some observations, which may or may not accompany the draft to Simla, as His Excellency the Governor of Madras in Council shall think fit.

4. I beg to be allowed to state that I view the proposed arrangements for the receipt and purchase of bullion in Madras as a mere temporary measure. I feel sure that, in such an attenuated condition of the Assay Establishment, neither Government nor the Public will be satisfied.

5. If the contemplated reductions and changes are carried out, it will not be worth the while of Government to keep up even a show of receiving and valuing bullion; nor, on the other hand, should trade revive and there come an influx of bullion to Madras, would the merchants sit content to have their tenders of bullion delayed in valuation, and, consequently, be subjected to loss of interest on their money. Large tenders of bullion cannot, with any safety, be taken up and valued rapidly enough under the new dispensation (which I understand to mean complete abolition of the Assay Department), and, unless Government maintain a regular establishment, capable of valuing any amount of bullion that may be tendered, it is of very little use keeping up any show or issuing any Notification that they will receive and purchase bullion.

6. The science and business of assay is a speciality, and, if once the Assay Establishment be broken up, the men discharged will seek other employment and will not feel inclined, in the event of an emergency, to revert to their old occupation. Such men cannot be picked up any day like coolies, and, unless trained assistance is at hand, the officer who is to undertake assays will be powerless to meet the demand that may be made upon him, and a dead lock (if not a more serious mischief) may fairly, I think, be anticipated.

7. The half-measures now under contemplation will necessarily involve certain expense, and give, I believe, very little satisfaction in return; therefore, in my humble opinion, it would be better that Government should rather notify that they have altogether ceased to purchase bullion in Madras than that they are still in a position to continue doing so.

Financial Department, Fort St. George.

NOTIFICATION RESPECTING THE RECEIPT AND PURCHASE OF BULLION.

Whereas it has been decided to abolish the Bullion Depôt in the Assay Office of the late Madras Mint, the Government of India, for the convenience of the public in Madras, has decreed that bullion may still be received there by the Accountant-General and a certificate of its value be granted by the Chemical Examiner, who will from henceforth undertake the process of assay.

2. The rules for the purchase of bullion sanctioned by Government are as follow:—

3. Tenders of bullion will be received at the Accountant-General's Office, Fort St. George, between the hours of 10 A.M. and 4 P.M., the tenders to be addressed to the Accountant-General, specifying the nature of the bullion.

4. The bullion on tender shall be weighed in the presence of the Accountant-General and merchant (or their duly authorized representatives).

5. The bullion under a suitable guard shall then be sent to the Office of the Chemical Examiner to be premelted, and, in order to allow him time for this portion of the work, the bullion should not arrive at his office later than 11 o'clock A.M.

6. The bullion will then, in the presence of the merchant or his agent, be melted, and, while in its molten state, a granulated muster of *two* tolahs weight shall be taken from the contents of each crucible for the purpose of assay and the remaining metal be poured into moulds. The resulting ingots shall be stamped with the Chemical Examiner's Office number and again weighed in the presence of the party tendering or his representative who will then receive an acknowledgment of the gross weight of the bullion after melting, inclusive of musters and any recoverable particles: this gross weight shall be entered in the "Tender Register."

7. On the afternoon of the same day, on which it has been received and melted by the Chemical Examiner, the bullion shall be returned to the Currency Treasury at the Fort under the charge of the Accountant-General for safe custody. There it shall be locked up in a strong box with two separate padlocks and keys, the merchant or owner holding one and the Accountant-General the other until the assay is completed.

8. The musters of the bullion after premelting shall be retained by the Chemical Examiner and assayed. The process of assay will occupy *three* days after the melting of the bullion. The Chemical Examiner shall then prepare the usual Assay Certificate for the value of the bullion and send it to the Accountant-General, who will cause it to be delivered to the owner, and which on presentation at the Bank of Madras will be cashed.

9. The merchant on receipt of his certificate shall restore the duplicate key of the strong chest at the Accountant-General's Office, and the bullion shall be lodged in the strong room of the Currency Treasury at the Fort until further orders be received as to its final disposal.

10. The Assay Certificates are payable on demand in accordance with Clause 2, Section 9, of Act XIX. of 1861, at the rate of 979 Rupees per 1,000 tolahs of standard silver fit for coinage, the Rupees 21 deducted being the seigniorage at two per cent. and the premelting charge at one per mille on the calculated intrinsic or standard value of the bullion tendered. In the case of coins which have been once struck in any of the Indian Government Mints the seigniorage charge of only one Rupee per cent. is made.

11. In addition to the aforesaid deductions, which are universally made, a refinage charge shall be imposed, agreeably to the following scale, on all bullion received whose Assay Report or "touch" is 890 parts of pure silver in 1,000 or less:—

Charges for refining under Standard Silver.

Touch.	Refinage charge per cent.	Touch.	Refinage charge per cent.	Touch.	Refinage charge per cent.	Touch.	Refinage charge per cent.
890.....	·26	868.....	·46	848.....	·66	829...	·84
887.....	·28	866.....	·48	846.....	·68	827...	·86
885.....	·30	864.....	·50	844.....	·70	825...	·88
883.....	·32	862.....	·52	842.....	·72	823...	·90
881.....	·34	860.....	·54	840.....	·74	821...	·92
879.....	·36	858.....	·56	837.....	·76	819...	·94
877.....	·38	856.....	·58	835.....	·78	817...	·96
875.....	·40	854.....	·60	833.....	·80	814...	·98
873.....	·42	852.....	·62	831.....	·82	812...	1·00
870.....	·44	850.....	·64	.....	...	.....	...

12. Parties bringing bullion for assay shall be at liberty to withdraw the same after registry within the day following the receipt of the Assay Report, but at no later period, on payment of an assay fee of four (4) Rupees for each assay of gold and two (2) Rupees for each assay of silver, and the actual charges for premelting above named. Or, if dissatisfied with the first assay report, they may be allowed a retrial; but, if the second assay gives the same result, they shall become liable to double fees upon withdrawing their bullion, otherwise only to the authorized fees for the extra assay.

13. All bullion which, after being premelted, is found to be brittle and not adapted for coinage will be returned to the proprietor, who will, however, pay the charge for premelting the same at the prescribed rate calculated on the gross weight in tolahs.

14. Private assays of gold or silver will be undertaken by the Chemical Examiner on the payment of a fee of four (4) Rupees for each sample of gold, and two (2) Rupees for each sample of silver.

STATEMENT of Merchants' Silver Bullion received for eighteen months from January 1864 to June 1865 and from October 1869 to March 1871.

	Weight. Tolahs.		Weight. Tolahs.
January 1864	3,01,455	October 1869	11,261
February ,, ...	26,662	November ,, ...	3,997
March ,, ...	18,42,581	December ,, ...	882
April ,, ...	4,86,312	January 1870	10,551
May ,, ...	6,44,696	February ,, ...	.....
June ,, ...	13,82,769	March ,, ...	14,932
July ,, ...	5,41,942	April ,, ...	192
August ,, ...	4,97,943	May ,, ...	10,589
September 1864	5,15,469	June ,, ...	17,571
October ,, ...	4,75,872	July ,, ...	.....
November ,, ...	4,74,015	August ,, ...	643
December ,, ...	2,38,215	September 1870	.....
January 1865	8,50,335	October ,, ...	8,460
February ,, ...	59,386	November ,, ...	3,533
March ,, ...	3,97,350	December ,, ...	1,652
April ,, ...	1,10,435	January 1871	.....
May ,, ...	2,20,520	February ,, ...	1,939
June ,, ...	40,415	March ,, ...	.....
Total...	91,06,372	Total...	86,202
Average per month ...	5,05,909·55	Average per month ...	4,789

FORT ST. GEORGE,
19*th April* 1871.

(Signed) HENRY W. GRAHAM,
Assay Master.

To the Acting Accountant-General.

with reference to letter, dated Paper Currency Dept., 17th April 1871, No. 46.

Referred to the Accountant-General for early report on the proposed Notification.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
17*th April* 1871.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

No. 60.

No. 28-A. *Report of the Acting Accountant-General.*

The undersigned has the honour to report, with reference to the accompanying copy of a statement received from the Assay Master, that, so long as the amount of bullion tendered by merchants does not exceed Rupees (20,000) twenty thousand a month, the establishment now entertained on account of the Paper Currency Department will be able to undertake the duties allotted to this office in the draft Notification. But, whenever the sum so tendered shall exceed that limit, a temporary extra establishment will be necessary, as the work of the

Currency Department, which is incessant, would have to be stopped for a period that would seriously interfere with the interests of Government and of the Public.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
20*th April* 1871.

(Signed) R. W. LODWICK,
Ag. Accountant-General.

To the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George.

No. 29. Memorandum from the Chemical Examiner, to the Under Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 23rd May 1871, No. 118.

REFERENCE.—Your Memorandum, No. 135, dated 22nd May 1871, No. 214.

SUBJECT.—The undersigned has the honour to state that he is prepared to assume charge of the Assay Department on the 29th instant.

(Signed) HENRY KING,
Chemical Examiner.

No. 30. ORDER THEREON, 30th May 1871, No. 208.

As the Chemical Examiner reports having received charge of the Assay Department, the Notification will be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette.*

(True Extract.)

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Chemical Examiner.
,, Accountant-General.

Exd. J. Wright.

Copy not to

Fort Saint George,
Mint Assay Office,
12th April 1871.

From,

Henry W. Graham Esq.
Assay Master.

To,

R. S. Ellis Esq. C.B.
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

Para. 1. I have the honor, according to request, to enclose the accompanying notification for approval, relative to the receipt and purchase of Bullion at Madras.

2. The several points appear to me to be sufficiently clear and to require no explanation, I think I have comprehended all the exigencies that need be provided for, in a case where there is neither Mint nor regularly constituted Assay department on the Spot.

3. In forwarding this notification which, I presume must receive the sanction of the Government of India before promulgation, I trust it may not be considered out of place on my part, to make some observations, which may or may not accompany the draft to Simla, as His Excellency the Governor

Copy.

Copy of £18713 Mint Rules.

FINANCIAL.

THE CHEMICAL EXAMINER,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated May, 30th.
Recd.

Encl.
G. O., 30th May 1871, No. 208.

MAY.
Nos. 28—30.

Directing that the Notification respecting the receipt and purchase of bullion be published in Fort St. George Gazette.

Financial Department Fort St. George

May 30, 1871

Notification respecting the receipt and purchase of Bullion.

1 Whereas it has been decided to abolish the Bullion depot in the Askay Office of the late Madras Mint. the Government of India, for the convenience of the public in Madras has decreed that Bullion may still be received there by the Accountant General and a Certificate of its value be granted by the Chemical Examiner who will from hence forth undertake the process of Assay.

2. The rules for the purchase of Bullion sanctioned by Government are as follows.

3. Tenders of Bullion will be received at the Accountant General's Office Fort St. George between the hours of 10 A. M and 4 P. M. the Tenders to be addressed to the Accountant General specifying the nature

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of the Bullion.

4. The Bullion on tender shall be weighed in the presence of the Accountant General and Merchant (or their duly authorised representatives.)

5. The Bullion under a suitable Guard shall then be sent to the office of the Chemical Examiner to be premelted and in order to allow him time for this portion of the work the Bullion should not arrive at his office later than 11 O'clock A. M.

6. The Bullion will then in the presence of the Merchant or his Agent be melted and while in its Molten state a granulated muster of two tolahs weight shall be taken from the contents of each Crucible for the purpose of Assay and the remaining metal be poured into Moulds. The resulting Ingots shall be stamped with the Chemical Examiner's Office Number and again weighed in the presence of the party tendering or his representative who will then receive an Acknowledgment of the gross weight of the Bullion after melting inclusive of Musters and any recoverable particles.

this gross weight shall be entered in the "Tender Register."

7. On the afternoon of the same day on which it has been received and melted by the Chemical Examiner the Bullion shall be returned to the Currency Treasury at the Fort under the charge of the Accountant General for safe custody. There it shall be locked up in a strong box with two separate padlocks and Keys. the Merchant or owner holding one and the Accountant General the other until the Assay is completed.

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9. The Merchant on receipt of his Certificate shall restore the duplicate Key of the strong Chest at the Accountant General's Office and the Bullion shall

shall be lodged in the [illegible]oom of the Currency Treasury at the Fort until further orders be received as to its final disposal.

10. The Assay Certificates are payable on demand in accordance with Clause 2 Section 9 of Act XIX of 1861 at the rate of 979 Rs. per 1000 tolahs of Standard Silver fit for Coinage. The Rupees 21 deducted being the Seignorage at 2 per cent and the premelting charge at 1 per Mille on the calculated intrinsic or Standard Value of the Bullion tendered. In the case of Coins which have been once struck in any of the Indian Government Mints the Seignorage charge of only 1 Rupee per Cent is made.

11. In addition to the aforesaid deductions which are universally made. A refinage charge shall be imposed agreeably to the following Scale on all Bullion received whose Assay report or "touch" is 890 parts of pure Silver in 1000 or less

Charges

Charges for Refining under-Standard Silver.

Touch	Refinage charge per Cent.	Touch	Refinage charge per Cent	Touch	Refinage charge per Cent.	Touch	Refinage charge per Cent.
890	.26	868	.46	848	.66	829	.84
887	.28	866	.48	846	.68	827	.86
885	.30	864	.50	844	.70	825	.88
883	.32	862	.52	842	.72	823	.90
881	.34	860	.54	840	.74	821	.92
879	.36	858	.56	837	.76	819	.94
877	.38	856	.58	835	.78	817	.96
875	.40	854	.60	833	.80	814	.98
873	.42	852	.62	831	.82	812	1.00
870	.44	850	.64	"	"	"	"

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for premelting above Rs[illegible] if dis-
=satisfied with the first Assay Report
they may be allowed a retrial but if
the Second Assay gives the same result,
they shall become liable to double fees
upon withdrawing their Bullion,—
otherwise only to the authorised fees for
the extra Assay.

13. All Bullion which after
being premelted is found to be brittle
and not adapted for Coinage will be
returned to the proprietor—who will
however pay the charge for premelting
the same at the prescribed rate calcu-
=lated on the gross weight in Tolas.

14. Private Assays of Gold or
Silver will be undertaken by the
Chemical Examiner on the payments
of a fee of four (4) rupees for each
sample of Gold and two rupees for
each sample of Silver.

Henry W. Jackson
(Assay Master.)

Approved &c &c
W. Hurdle &c &c

Statement of [illegible] Million re-
Eighteen months from [illegible] to June 1865 and
from October 1869 to March 1871.

		Weight Tolas.			Weight Tolas
January	1864	3,01,455	October	1869	11,261
February	"	26,662	November	"	3,997
March	"	18,42,581	December	"	882
April	"	4,86,312	January	1870	10,551
May	"	6,44,696	February	"	0
June	"	13,82,769	March	"	14,932
July	"	5,41,942	April	"	192
August	"	4,97,943	May	"	10,589
September	"	5,15,469	June	"	17,571
October	"	4,75,872	July	"	0
November	"	4,74,015	August	"	643
December	"	2,38,215	September	"	0
January	1865	8,50,335	October	"	8,460
February	"	59,386	November	"	3,533
March	"	3,97,350	December	"	1,652
April	"	1,10,435	January	1871	0
May	"	2,20,520	February	"	1,939
June	"	40,415	March	"	0
	Total	91,06,372			86,202

Tob St George.
H. Mts Assay Office
19th April 1871

Signed / Henry. W. Graham.
Assay Master

To The Acting Accountant General.
With reference to letter dated Paperburrency Department
17th April 1871. No. 46.

/ True Copy /

Woodrich

Acting Accountant General

Enclosure
1.
to
No 11.

To Financial Secy

Read Nos. 154 214.

Order thereon 30 May 1871 No. 208

As the Chemical Examiner reports having received charge of the Assay Department, the Notification will be published in the Fort Saint George Gazette.

J.P.

J.D.

Chemical Examr
Accountant } dated 7/6

Gazette 30/5

Sect. St. X. 10/1
154 of 71

30.6

(14)

Financl 1871. Depart.

From

The Chemical Examiner,

Madras.

No. 118

Dated 23rd } May
Received 25th }

Enclosures. one rpt.

To

The Under Secretary
to Government
Financial Depart.

Reference.

Your Memo No. 135 dated

22nd May 1871. No. 214.

Subject.

The undersigned has the honor to state that he is prepared to assume charge of the Assay Department on the 29th inst.

Henry Young
Chemical Examiner.

With an order

Rr. 29